

Council for Women's Newsletter

NC Council for Women is the state's leading voice on key issues impacting women

Special points of interest:

- January is Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- February is American Heart Health month. Go Red: <http://blog.heart.org/red-sweeps-nation-month-support-womens-heart-health/>
- February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month <http://www.loveisrespect.org/resources/teendvmonth/>
- John Guard, Pitt County Sheriff's Office, is offering statewide training for law enforcement on investigating incidents of DV. For more info, email john.guard@pittcountync.gov



The Council for Women takes pride in its role as a leader in the state on women's issues. This newsletter not only serves as a form of communication to the Council's grant awardees, but also to its community partners, stakeholders, and counterparts.

There are many exciting programs within the Council for Women and in this initial newsletter we aim to highlight the most current events, relevant

From the Desk of Gale M. Wilkins

topics, and bring awareness to key points as it relates to the work of CFW.

Although one Council for Women newsletter is being launched, going forward, CFW and FVPSA will make two separate publications available. Each month the CFW will choose a feature author to write a newsletter. Featured authors will include CFW board members, members of the Domestic Violence Commission, CFW staff, and more.

Moreover, the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) will continue a quarterly newsletter to keep all FVPSA shelter and prevention award grantees abreast about what our state



and country is doing to serve victims of family violence, domestic violence, teen dating violence, and intimate partner violence.

Thank you for your unwavering support of the Council for Women and the men, women, and children we serve.

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January is Stalking Awareness Month

7.5 million people are stalked every year in the United States.

The majority of victims are stalked by someone they know.

About half of all victims of stalking indicated they were stalked before the age of 25, with 14 percent being female victims and 16 percent male victims reporting being a victim of stalking between the ages of 11 and 17.

Data also shows that many

victims of murders or domestic violence were also victims of stalking.

North Carolina's stalking laws were established in 1991 and define stalking as "two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, in the presence of, or follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to

or about a person, or interferes with a person's property. Contributing factors to stalking have since been added to the law to include use of GPS, social media, and cyber stalking.

Governor Pat McCrory is the first governor to sign a Stalking Proclamation in the United States. The Proclamation was signed January 4 and it declared January as Stalking Awareness Month.

FVPSA-Family Violence Prevention Services Act



Underserved populations continue to be an important target of FVPSA funding. How does your agency identify your county's underserved population?

FVPSA-funded agencies are required to serve their county's underserved population, but ethnicity is not the only acceptable category of such a population. As a state, we have committed to addressing the unmet needs of North Carolina residents of all different ethnicities, races, ages, and special needs through outreach, prevention, and intervention.

Did you know that North Carolinians who belong to an

overrepresented population with inadequately met needs are also considered part of an underserved population.

Application season for FVPSA 2016-2017 is soon approaching. When applying for FVPSA funding, consider your county's underserved population that you will aid. Consider homeless victims, victims of low socioeconomic backgrounds, current and previous incarcerated victims, and victims with language barriers, immigration status challenges, and age.

Think about creative culturally competent and specific ways to invite, including and assisting

members of your community, who have encountered, or are at risk of becoming victim to, family violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, or dating violence.

Applicants may develop, implement, and share constructive ways to acknowledge and respect underserved populations in the counties your agency serves. What culturally-specific journey will your agency take to reach out to men, women, and children knowledge about DV and the tools needed to combat and prevent domestic violence? Maya Sanders, FVPSA Coordinator, can be reached at 919-715-9439 or ma-sanders@doa.nc.gov.

Project C.O.P.E. -Human Trafficking Project

*"January is
National Human
Trafficking
Awareness
Month"*

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human Trafficking is defined as "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation. A victim does not have to be physically transported. "

Project C.O.P.E.'s purpose is to improve and expand mentoring services for those at risk for

sexual exploitation. Project C.O.P.E. has four primary goals:

- Increase adult and youth awareness surrounding the risks of commercial sexual exploitation
- Promote resources and services available for children at-risk of exploitation
- Strengthen protective factors among previously exploited children and youth
- Strengthen existing academic, extracurricular, and mentoring programs to serve youth more effectively

Bill S279, was signed by Gover-

nor Pat McCrory and became effective January 1, 2016.

In summary, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, S279 requires each local board of education to begin reproductive health and safety education in 7th grade. Provisions have broadened the included content and expanded the list of those qualified to teach the curriculum. For more information, please contact our Project C.O.P.E Project Administrator, Kiricka Yarbough Smith, at 919-733-2455 or Kiricka.yarbough.smith@doa.nc.gov.

Eastern Region



New Bern, North Carolina

The Eastern Region is looking forward to a new year full of learning and sharing. Our intern, from the East Carolina School of Social Work, Jennifer Gonzales, has joined the team and we are excited about the expertise she brings to us.

While at Council for Women, she volunteers at the Veterans Service Office, is involved in promoting a community garden to be housed in one of the low

income areas in Craven County, compiling an Eastern Region Resource Manual, and seeking and compiling other grant opportunities for our grantees.

Human Trafficking is finally getting the well deserved attention it deserves in the Eastern Region of our state. We are learning and doing amazing teamwork with Project C.O.P.E. and other human trafficking educational opportunities.

The Eastern Region is engrossed with setting up board trainings and region meetings. The tentative dates for region meetings are March 31, and July 12, time and place are still to be determined. For more information about the Eastern Region, please contact Linda Murphy, Region Director, at 252-514-4868 or lin-da.murphy@doa.nc.gov.

Northern Piedmont Region

According to Tim Delaney's, announcement at a recent press release, as the President and CEO of the National Council of Non-Profits, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service withdrew their proposal on January 7, 2016 to collect the donor's name, ad-

dress, and Social Security number or other taxpayer identification number to substantiate charitable nonprofits contributions of more than \$250 in value.

Almost 38,000 citizens influenced a piece of bipartisan legislation was introduced to

prevent the rules from being implemented. Bernetta Thigpen serves as the Region Director of the Northern Piedmont Region. For more information please contact her office at 336-288-8650, or by email at bernetta.thigpen@doa.nc.gov.



Downtown Greensboro, North Carolina

Southern Piedmont Region

When you hear the phrase "hospitality industry," what comes to mind? Hotels and motels? That is a big part of it, but the hospitality industry also encompasses vendors who conduct business around hotels and motels – transportation companies, caterers, and event specialists, just to name a few.

People in this industry may be well-positioned to notice indicators of human trafficking. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

states that "hotels and motels are a common venue for sex trafficking, due to ease of access for buyers, ability to pay in cash and maintain secrecy through finances, and lack of facility maintenance or upkeep expenses. According to the NHTRC, hotels and motels may also be sites for labor trafficking: "The trafficker may be the hotel management or labor recruiter/labor broker which subcontracts with the hotel to provide a labor supply. If the trafficker is a contractor, the

hotel may or may not be aware of the abuse." Enhance your community's capacity for recognizing and responding to human trafficking by ensuring your education and outreach activities are inclusive of the local hospitality industry and its many components.

The Region Director of the Southern Piedmont Region is Elyse Hamilton-Childres. She can be reached at 704-563-3700 or email elyse.hamilton-childres@doa.nc.gov.

"...hotels and motels are a common venue for sex trafficking."

Western Region

In 2002, the CFW was authorized by the NC State Legislature to approve Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP's). BIP's serve a vital role: to re-educate domestic violence offenders on their behavior, and to help batterers develop new, healthier methods of interacting with intimate partners and family members. The mission of NC Batterer Intervention Programs is to aid in the elimination of domestic violence (DV) by providing services to batterers, to hold them accountable, promote safety and

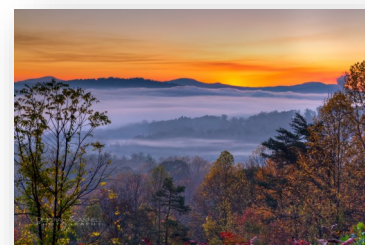
justice for victims and children, and to bring about social changes necessary to end battering and all forms of domestic violence.

For more information on the rules governing BIP work, application forms (due February 20, and August 20), and an interactive map of service providers, please see the CFW website at www.councilforwomen.nc.gov and follow the link under programs.

There are currently 53 approved agencies providing BIP services in 86 counties.

Resource material, [A Guide to Achieving Recommended Practices](#), may be viewed and/or downloaded from our website.

Kathleen Balogh, Western Region Director is the BIP Manager of NC programs, and can be reached at 828-251-6169 or emailed at Kathleen.balogh@doa.nc.gov for more information about BIPs.



NC MOUNTAINS



Nothing Compares

Council for Women

Department of Administration
116 West Jones Street
Suite G-120
Raleigh, NC 27603
Phone: 919-733-2455
Website: www.councilforwomen.nc.gov

The North Carolina Council for Women (CFW) is a division within the Department of Administration. CFW administers state and federal grants to domestic violence, sexual assault, and dual domestic violence/sexual assault agencies. CFW serves at the pleasure of the governor of North Carolina and advises him on statewide women's issues. CFW prides itself on working with the Office of Governor to write the recent human trafficking and stalking proclamations and making January both Human Trafficking and Stalking Awareness Month in North Carolina.

The Council's Bulletin Board

Upcoming CFW Meetings

THE NC CFW Advisory Board is meeting on February 11, 2016- DENR Building Room 5001.

NC Domestic Violence Commission is meeting on February 19, 2016- DENR Building Room 1210.

Go RED

Join CFW in participating in the **Go RED Project** in February! Send us pictures of your staff in **RED** in support of Women's Heart Health February 1-5.

<http://blog.heart.org/red-sweeps-nation-month-support-womens-heart-health/>



CFW College Outreach Series

North Carolina Central University (NCCU)

February 4, 2016

7:00 p.m.

"Women in Politics"

-Small panel with Q & A.

Audience: Annie Day Shepard Scholars (group of first-generation college women @ NCCU)

March 23, 2016

NCCU Women's Symposium:
Curve of My Back: The Art of the Woman

5:00 p.m. Symposium

6:00 p.m. Networking Reception

Independence through Self-Advocacy; Engaging Panel with Questions and Answers portion. *This will be a break out session connected to the symposium. Sessions will discuss and explore the role women of color have played in economic and political growth, and advocacy in the U.S.*

*April 21, 2016

10:45 a.m. -11:35 a.m.

Human Trafficking/Confidence and Courage

Audience: Members of the Annie Day Shepard Scholars and Invited students from Social Work and Criminal Justice

Contact Mary Williams-Stover, Deputy Director, Council for Women, for additional information at 919-715-9437 or maryw.stover@doa.nc.gov.

April 8, 2016

NCPAT, NC Providers of Abuser Treatment, is a networking and support organization for professionals from programs in North Carolina who provide intervention and psycho-educational services for perpetrators of domestic violence. NCPAT provides Annual Training to the BIP providers in NC as well as other allied professionals.

The theme of this year's annual training is **It Takes a Village: Incorporating Batterer Intervention into a Community Coordinated Response**.

Research has shown that a Coordinated Community Response is vital in keeping victims of domestic violence safe and holding batterers accountable. Community Coordinated Response Teams are made up of Victim advocates, law enforcement, judges, probation/parole, child protection services, the media, health care professionals, the faith community, mental health providers, and correctional facilities.

In many communities, Batterer Intervention Programs are not included in a CCR. This conference will provide an overview of CCR's in North Carolina, and

how BIP's can engage key community partners to work together in reducing domestic violence in their area.

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Please see www.councilforwomen.nc.gov for more information and to access registration materials.